United Nations E/C.2/2010/2/Add.26

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 October 2009

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2010 regular session
25 January-3 February 2010

Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

09-58212 (E) 021209

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1. European Roma Rights Centre (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) is an international public interest law organization engaged in a range of activities aimed at combating anti-Romani racism and human rights abuse of Roma. The approach of the ERRC involves strategic litigation, international advocacy, research and policy development and training of Romani activists. During the period, it maintained its strategic focus. There was an increased level of attention on work in Turkey, Ukraine and Russia.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

During 2007 and 2008, the ERRC cooperated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Moldova to conduct research and prepare reports on the rights of Romani children in Moldova.

Written comments to: **United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** in Geneva, Switzerland: (a) concerning the Russian Federation at its seventy-third session (August 2008); (b) in conjunction with the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Osservazione and Sucar Drom on the situation of Roma and Sinti in Italy, written and oral comments, seventy-second session (February-March 2008); (c) in conjunction with Vzajemne Souziti, concerning the Czech Republic, seventieth session (February-March 2007); (d) concerning Ukraine, sixty-ninth session (July-August 2006); and (e) on Roma rights issues in France, sixty-sixth session (February-March 2005).

United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva: (a) concerning the Republic of Macedonia, ninety-second session (March-April 2008); (b) concerning Ukraine at its eighty-eighth session (October-November 2006); and (c) concerning Kosovo on the occasion of the review of the Country Report of Task Forces on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), eighty-sixth session (March 2006).

The ERRC's summary of concerns pertaining to the human rights situation of Roma in Slovenia for consideration by the United Nations Human Rights Committee reviewing Slovenia's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, eighty-fourth session (July 2005 in Geneva).

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at United Nations Headquarters: (a) by the European Roma Rights Centre, Bibija, Eureka and Women's Space concerning Romani women in Serbia at its thirty-eighth session (March 2007); and (b) concerning Romani women in Hungary at its thirty-ninth session (July 2007).

ERRC submitted a joint shadow report to the Committee at United Nations Headquarters: (a) concerning the situation of Romani women in the Republic of Croatia at its thirty-second session (January 2005); (b) in conjunction with the Roma Centre of Skopje and Network Women's Program concerning the situation of

Romani women and girls in Macedonia at its thirty-fourth session (January 2006); (c) in conjunction with Romani CRISS concerning the situation of Romani women and girls in Romania at its thirty-fifth session (May 2006); and (d) in conjunction with gender studies, o.p.s. and the League of Human Rights concerning the situation of Romani women and girls in the Czech Republic at the thirty-sixth session (August 2006).

Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning Hungary, forty-first session (January 2006, in Geneva).

United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva: (a) concerning the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in conjunction with the National Roma Centrum, at its thirty-seventh session (November 2006); and (b) concerning Ukraine, at the thirty-ninth session (November 2007).

United Nations Committee against Torture in Geneva concerning Macedonia on the occasion of its Review of Macedonia at its fortieth session (May 2008).

- International advocacy submission to the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as part of deliberations towards the next annual report of the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council, according to decision 2004/110 of the Commission on Human Rights and decision 2006/102 of the Human Rights Council (November 2006).

The organization's representatives' participation at the: (a) review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly (February-March 2005, United Nations Headquarters); (b) the first United Nations Forum on Minorities (provided substantive background information on Roma educational issues and provided oral input at the Forum) (December 2008, Geneva); the ERRC received financial assistance from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (2007, 2008) and the United Nations Democracy Fund (2008).

2. Firooznia Charity Foundation (Special; 2005)

1. Introduction

Firooznia Charity Foundation (Charity Institute) is a non-profit and private institute based in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was founded by Mrs. Shafiqe Firooznia in 1999. The aims of this organization are to protect householder women and provide professional and technical training workshops in order to educate people, provide marriage compensation and dowry preparation to poor youth and housing for disadvantaged women. Firooznia Charity Foundation was formally registered on 14 August 1999. Following the positive actions of the Charity Institute, it succeeded in attaining special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Aims of the organization: (a) provide housing construction facilities for the elderly in Tehran and surrounding cities; (b) fishery culturing farms construction with the main aim of employment of families and registered farms; and (c) Housing Association development.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

The assistance of Firooznia Charity Institute is as follows: (a) dowry: Firooznia presented dowry to 176 young couples; (b) treatment and Aid Department: Firooznia referred patients to medical centres for examination, surgery, drug preparation and treatment; (c) social work: the task of this section is to provide psychology training and free consultation for women covered and their children to resolve spiritual matters; (d) entrepreneurship: more than 100 women householders were employed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and job-finding centres. This section awarded professional and technical training workshop certificates. In addition, this section trained people in skills such as sewing, flower work, handicrafts, etc. Products produced by these people were sent to charity markets and internal forums for different occasions; (e) housing: Firooznia Charity Foundation bought 10 residential apartments via charity revenues and offered them to disadvantaged families. At present, there are eight buildings dedicated to women as mortgage and rent; (f) dress and nutrition distribution: about 2,000 grocery baskets were distributed to disadvantaged families during Ramadan and at the start of the school year that contained rice, vegetable oil, chicken, meat, fish, eggs, macaroni, detergents and sanitary materials; (g) cultural and social activities: more than 100 concerts were held during the last four years. The revenue obtained was dedicated to charity goals of the Foundation; (h) Charity markets: in 2005, the charity market was held in Neiavaran Palace for the first time. Subsequent markets have operated annually in the Art Museum Garden. The produce was sold by the recipient families and their children. Charity markets were held by the institute every month, and the profits were used for earthquake victims. During the last years, several markets were held periodically at different sites; (i) art: the institute's Gallery Foundation was held in different forums in the fields of drawing panels, handicrafts, projection, water colour, ceramics, etc.; (j) public relations, media and culture: various papers were printed about women's enrichment in Islamic society, research about women's situation and the role of family in society, professional training and master attaining along with art dissemination for women; (k) international affairs: the organization designed a website that includes historical events, goals and Firoozmia's organizational structure. After two years the site has been the basis for activities of development, responsibilities and our participation as a NGO in national and international areas.

3. Organization for International Economic Relations (Special; 1973)

I. Introduction

The Organization for International Economic Relations (OIER) was founded in Vienna in 1947, by a group of distinguished personalities from different countries, all of them deeply committed to the idea of integration. OIER has evolved to become a platform for the establishment and extension of economic and trade relations crossing all borders. It looks back on a 60-year history of successful international networking as a competent partner and a pioneer in the development and promotion of global economic processes. Extending its scope far beyond its original objective, the organization has become a worldwide forum for the discussion of economic, social, scientific and political issues. Its main activities are aimed at identifying global trends and important future-oriented issues relating to

sustainability, innovation, communication and mobility. On 30 June 2008, OIER celebrated its sixtieth anniversary with more than 200 international guests, representatives from economics, politics, the diplomatic corps, the media and science. The keynote speaker was the President of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, who spoke on the theme: "Networking in the Age of Globalization".

Expanded areas of activities: In 2005, OIER founded the United Global Academy, in cooperation with the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, Karl-Franzens-University Graz, Austria, and DaimlerChrysler, as a worldwide network of universities, academic management institutions, companies and international organizations, to unite innovation and creativity in favour of an international, future-oriented dialogue. The Academy deals with topics such as sustainability, intercultural exchange, mobility, innovation, international management and global social responsibility. With the academy, OIER is building the bridge from economics, politics and media to science and practical implementation, convinced that it takes a combination of knowledge, skills and research to conquer the future.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2007: Representatives attended the following meetings, panel discussions and conferences at United Nations Headquarters: (a) January: the NGO Accountability Debate, Panel Discussion; (b) February: update on the work of the General Assembly; a briefing for NGOs; (c) March: breaking barriers: achieving balance in numbers and work-life; (d) April: panel discussion on human trafficking; (e) April: the role of the media: promoting psychosocial well-being globally; (f) May: UNU-MERIT: event on hydrogen fuel cells and alternatives in transport and energy; (g) June: Conference on Central America; (h) September: Sixtieth Annual DPI/NGO Conference; (i) October: "Sustainable Urbanization: Challenges and Opportunities in LDCs".

Vienna/Austria: February: official visit of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to Vienna, participation in receptions and meetings.

2008: Representatives attended the following meetings, panel discussions and conferences at United Nations Headquarters: (a) February: meeting for NGOs with the President of the General Assembly; April: DPI/NGO briefing, "The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons"; (b) June: briefing on the theme "Kick the Habit: Towards a Low Carbon Economy; (c) June: briefing on investment and climate change; (d) July: panel discussion: human rights and counter-terrorism; (e) October: The Price of Dignity: Human Rights and Global Economics; (f) December: Exploring New Technologies in Media: Where do YOU Get Your News?

Activities in support of global principles: representatives of OIER took part in different events regarding globalization and its implications, the importance of international relations and future-oriented dialogue:

2006: June: organization of dissertation in cooperation with the regional government and chamber of commerce of Tyrol: "World at a Turning Point — The Importance of Transatlantic Relations"; November: participation in conferment of Premio Capo Circeo in Rome, Italy; organization of speech on "Perspectives for Europe and Africa" with regard to the G-8 summit in 2007;

2007: November: opening of the new World Bank offices in Berlin and in Vienna; January: meeting of the International Council with Dr. Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of Germany, to discuss Africa, relating to the G-8 summit;

2008: (a) April: organization of United Global Academy Award at Karl-Franzens-University in Graz, Austria, as an annual international award for extraordinary achievements in international relations and science, with a speech on: "Globalization and Social Responsibility"; (b) June: commemorative event on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of OIER with more than 200 international guests, representatives from the fields of economics, politics, the diplomatic corps, the media and science; keynote speaker: Dr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly; (c) July: commemorative event "60 Years Foreign Affairs Association".

Representatives of OIER took part in conferences, meetings and official visits regarding the development and promotion of international processes and international development cooperation in other countries:

2005: (a) February: Budapest: meetings with representatives from government and trade and commerce organizations and the media regarding economic relations in the Central and Middle European region; (b) April: working visit to St. Petersburg, Russian Federation; meetings with the governor of St. Petersburg and governmental representatives; (c) September: symposium on the theme "Sports and Economy — Cooperation with China in Sportive Events", organized by the Asia-Pacific Commission of German Economy in Berlin; (d) October: official visit of the Albanian State President Alfred Moisiu to Vienna, participated in meetings; (e) November: "Second Vienna Economic Forum — Go South East";

2006: May: organization in Munich of conference on the theme "European Encounters";

2007: (a) February: meeting with the Chinese Ambassador in Vienna, discussion on economic relations; (b) February: International Leadership Forum, Skopje, with personalities from the fields of politics, culture and media from 30 countries; (c) May: travel to Albania with a delegation, headed by President Dr. Leitl, with representatives from economy and international organizations, meetings with Albanian President Alfred Moisiu, Prime Minister Sali Berisha and Government members; (d) May: international economic talks in Vienna with Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Dr. Christoph Leitl, President of OIER and of the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria;

2008: (a) March: OIER Ambassadors' Lunch in Vienna with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Austria, Simon Smith, and a select circle of personalities from politics and economy; (b) March: Business Council Austria-Russia, Vienna, meetings on topical subjects in economic relations and business development.

Representatives of OIER took part in conferences, meetings and official visits regarding sustainable development, identifying global trends and important future-oriented issues relating to sustainability, innovation, communication and mobility:

2005: June: "Europa-Forum Wachau", St. Pölten, Austria, topic: "Perspectives for the Future";

2006: July: international conference of head of regional governments (in Canada, Brazil, South Africa and Germany) in Linz, Austria; main topic: "Politics for generations".

Considering education as a unifying factor, supporting people to become informed and active citizens in our interdependent world and helping to maintain peace, representatives of OIER took part in the following activities:

2005: (a) March: Foundation of United Global Academy at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, signing of the United Global Academy charter by the representatives of the University of Stellenbosch, Karl-Franzens-University Graz, DaimlerChrysler and OIER; (b) December: organization of "Alpe-Adria Science Award 2005" in Graz, dissertation on: "Responsibility as a Factor of Corporate Strategy"; (c) October: working visit to Trieste, Italy, meetings with the regional government and United World College of the Adriatic; (d) November: working visit, meetings with Government and Senate in Rome;

2007: (a) February: conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, "Education without Borders"; discussions of international experts and students about education, health, environment and economic development. United Global Academy student received an award for a project in South Africa "RUMOS Innovation is Hope"; (b) March: organization of United Global Academy Award for extraordinary achievements in international relations and science, speech on: "Perspectives of the relation Europe-Africa"; (c) November: twenty-fifth anniversary of the United World College of the Adriatic in Rome with State President Giorgio Napolitano and members of Government and Senate, which was celebrated as an example of international understanding and tolerance;

2008: February: Economic Forum UAE in Berlin; meetings with Minister Mohammed Al Gergawi and Minister Sheikha Lubna, to prepare the meetings during the forthcoming travel; (b) February: official visit to the United Arab Emirates, with representatives of the United Global Academy, meetings with Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak al Nahayan, Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research of the United Arab Emirates, government members and high-ranking representatives of Higher Colleges of Technology and CERT Group of Companies; discussing possibilities of cooperation and interfaces between these institutions and the United Global Academy.

Representatives of OIER took part in conferences and meetings regarding the situation of Africa, the relations to other continents, especially Europe, information, humanitarian programmes and programmes for the promotion of education, advanced training and economic processes: (a) April 2005: event "People for People", Berlin, regarding the promotion of the humanitarian activities of this organization in the sectors of health, drinking water and education in Africa; (b) September 2006: organization of cultural lecture and discussion on the theme "Europe — Africa" at the Karl-Franzens-University Graz; (c) August 2007: travel to South Africa with a delegation headed by the Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, Günther Oettinger, meeting with President Thabo Mbeki and other government members; meetings on the subject of education and economy; (d) May 2007: World Bank Forum 2007 "Africa on the Rise".

In order to discuss the possibilities of finance influencing the development process, representatives of OIER attended the following conferences and meetings:

(a) February-March 2005: "European Business Council", travel to Dubai with experts in economy and finance, meetings; (b) December 2005: International Investment Conference in Dubai; (c) May 2008: visit to Vienna of Christine Lagarde, Minister of Finance of France.

4. Wellesley Centers for Women (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

For 35 years, the Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW) has been driving social change through its social science research projects and training programmes. Women's perspectives and experiences are at the centre of all this work, which addresses three major areas: the status of women and girls and the advancement of their human rights both in the United States and around the globe; the education, care and development of children and youth; and the emotional well-being of families and individuals. Issues of diversity and equity are central across all the work, as are the experiences and perspectives of women from a variety of backgrounds and cultures.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives of WCW attended numerous meetings at United Nations Headquarters in New York, including sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2005, 2006 and 2007. WCW and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) co-sponsored the programme "Partners or Strangers: Women's and Children's Rights Advocates", at the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2007); co-sponsored with New York County Lawyers' Association and presented "Searching for the Roots of Violence: the Research Paradigm" at the Violence Against Women: From Critical Concerns to Collective Action Conference, which coincided with the fiftieth session of the Commission and which was part of a two-year advocacy effort of the NGO and the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2006); co-sponsored a side programme at the forty-ninth session of the Commission: "Women's Voices: Contested Territories", with the Anglican Consultative Council (March 2005); representatives also attended the Human Rights Committee meeting in 2006.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

(a) Publication with UNICEF, Legislative Reform on Child Domestic Labour — A Gender Analysis, publication pending. Advisory Board of the United Nations Evaluation Group is to develop evaluation guidelines for decision-making and accountability across the United Nations. The United Nations Evaluation Group brings together 43 units in the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, funds, programmes and affiliated organizations from the fall of 2008 through the present; (b) a project in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Advocacy and Capacity Development Tools on Women with Disabilities (October-December 2008). As a part of the project, publication with the United Nations, UNFPA, of "Disability Rights, Gender, and Development:

A Resource Tool for Action" (2008); (c) developed curriculum and conducted training programme on the human rights-based approaches and gender and child rights at the United Nations. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Secretariat for the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2008); (d) publication with UNICEF of the report of the Conference on Women and Children: The Human Rights Relationship (2008); (e) project in collaboration with UNICEF, "Promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child/CEDAW as Complementary Frameworks for National, Regional and Global Action, 1 September 2007 to 1 May 2008". As a part of the project, representatives and UNICEF organized and co-sponsored an innovative conference on the theme "Women and Children: The Human Rights Relationship", bringing together leading Asian women's rights and children's rights advocates to examine how linking the women's and children's rights agendas in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women can be mutually reinforcing, Bangkok, Thailand (December 2007); (f) a representative was an adviser to a member of the law reform initiative of UNICEF, spring 2006-December 2008; (g) publication with UNICEF, *Child Marriage and the Law* (2007).

5. Widows Rights International (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The main objective of Widows Rights International (WRI) is to support widows' and women's groups that are contesting the inequalities and injustices which have been imposed on widows of all ages by law and custom in many countries in Africa and South-East Asia. Many of the customs surrounding widowhood are not only psychologically and physically harmful; some are also life-threatening. Yet this violence against women is still absent from much of the human rights literature, which is largely silent on the topic. WRI seeks to bring this gross infringement of the human rights of widows to the attention of the wider international community, as well as work with national and international groups to bring an end to these violations. To achieve this, WRI has established partnerships with groups to which information is sent by means of a quarterly electronic newsletter, which discusses ways in which harmful laws and customs have been challenged, either through the courts or through lobbying local, regional or national parliaments to change oppressive laws. This information is also posted on WRI's website. WRI also seeks to support individual groups of women who are challenging the dispossession of widows, deserted or divorced women. Another aim is to maintain contact with widows' groups in our focus countries. During the period 2005-2007 we supported groups in India, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Uganda, Malawi and Cameroon, as well the Association of Strong Women Alone in Rajasthan, India. WRI is a member of the UK Women's National Commission, attends the preparatory briefings for the Commission on the Status of Women and collaborates on activities organized by the Women's National Commission at the United Nations.

Significant changes in the organization: WRI was able to undertake in 2008 a thorough evaluation of its activities with the help of a consultant provided by the Staples Trust, a British funding organization. The purpose is to enable WRI to continue efforts to employ staff, including a director who would build on the work

of the trustees. WRI is seeking additional funding to complete this exercise in the coming months.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

WRI's activities have been undertaken on the basis of objectives established by the United Nations in the areas of gender equality and human rights. In accordance with the areas of concern listed in the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as well as articles 2, 14, and 15 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the work that WRI is undertaking with groups supports United Nations actions to end one of the most overlooked but widespread infringements of the basic rights of millions of women and children.

In order to maintain our ability to support international advocacy, WRI has attended the forty-fifth through the forty-ninth sessions, the fifty-first through the fifty-third sessions and the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. WRI also campaigned to include information on widows in shadow reports by countries and organizations to the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The theme at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women", enabled WRI to advocate that, while a focus on promoting gender equality in development and decision-making is important, special efforts should be made to ensure that financial planning encompasses widowhood specifically. The specificity of the situation which widowhood uniquely imposes on women in many countries in the developing world can lead to a lack of both inheritance rights and land ownership, which results in serious financial deprivation. WRI has therefore continued to invite the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the need for special financial provisions for widows' rights in national and international promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Commission on the Status of Women was also urged to include in the development agenda the link between the poverty of children and the lack of widows' human rights, which requires immediate attention by Governments. Appeals were made at the Commission meetings in 2007 and 2008 to all States parties, the Commonwealth, NGOs, and United Nations agencies to acknowledge that the rights of widows are an integral yet specific aspect of women's overall rights. WRI intends to make early contact with the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on violence against women to bring the special plight of widows to her attention. In addition, WRI has, since 2007, greatly increased its efforts to encourage research into the position and condition of widows in a number of South Asian and sub-Saharan African countries.

6. Women for Women's Human Rights: New Ways (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR): New Ways is an independent women's non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1993. WWHR-New Ways aims at promoting women's human rights on the local, national, regional and international levels and enabling women to become active agents in the process for

social change, democratization and peace. It undertakes innovative and challenging projects, often setting precedents on the national and regional levels. Its programme activities combine a number of methods in a complementary manner in order to achieve a broad and sustainable impact. Through 15 years of sustainable activism, human rights training, advocacy, networking and publications, WWHR-New Ways has become a renowned organization nationally and internationally. It has served on Government and NGO delegations of Turkey to the United Nations women's conferences and has had special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2005. WWHR has led many successful campaigns for law reform with the women's movement in Turkey on women's human rights and gender equality, such as the establishment of a protection order law against domestic violence, and Civil and Penal Code reforms. Since 1995, WWHR-New Ways has been operating the Human Rights Education Programme for Women throughout Turkey. With the most sustainable and widespread human rights training programme in Turkey, it has nationwide outreach in 42 cities. WWHR-New Ways also acts as the international coordination office of the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies, a network of 45 organizations in 16 countries. In 1999, WWHR received the Association for Women's Rights in Development Leading Solutions Award, and in 2007 it was awarded the Gruber Foundation International Women's Rights Prize.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and major United Nations meetings

Over the reporting period, WWHR-New Ways participated, facilitated and/or coordinated NGO delegations of the regional network Coalition on Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies at the following meetings at United Nations Headquarters: (a) forty-ninth special session of the Commission on the Status of Women (February-March 2005): WWHR-New Ways facilitated and coordinated the participation of representatives of the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies network advocating for sexual, reproductive and bodily rights as human rights in Muslim societies at the 2005 Commission on the Status of Women special session with the aim of contributing to international advocacy efforts to safeguard sexual and reproductive health and rights. The delegation of the Coalition consisted of 18 prominent activists from eight countries in the Middle East, North Africa and South/South-East Asia: Bangladesh, Egypt, Lebanon, Malaysia, the Philippines, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen. The delegation prepared and delivered an NGO statement on behalf of the Coalition, calling on Governments to reaffirm the Beijing Plan of Action and take the necessary measures, including policies, programmes and legislative reforms, to safeguard and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights. The statement, one of the most progressive and forward-looking ones of the session, was highly acclaimed both by governmental and NGO delegations. In addition to coordinating the delegation, WWHR-New Ways worked with the Turkish official delegation during the session. Through intensive efforts, a member of WWHR-New Ways and a feminist ally parliamentarian from the opposition party were on the official delegation, thus creating the opportunity to work directly with the Turkish delegation; (b) the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (February-March 2006): one of the resolutions tabled in 2006 for the Commission on the Status of Women was "Women, the Girl-child and HIV/AIDS". WWHR-New Ways facilitated and

coordinated the participation of three members of the Coalition on Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies from Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon to lobby for strong language in the resolution together with international civil society. Since the 2006 High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS was to be held two months later, it was especially important to ensure the adoption of a strong resolution as the lead up to the special session. The delegation lobbied intensively during the negotiations on the resolution, drafting proposals and talking points to the friendly member States, including the sponsors, and providing them with old consensus language which helped in the negotiations. Overall, the resolution on "Women, the Girl-child and HIV/AIDS" contained good points and innovations, which represented a step forward, strengthening the position at the special session of the General Assembly. The strong points of the resolution included new references to the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and human rights, microbicides and male and female condoms, reproductive rights, sexual education; references to the International Conference on Population and Development, Beijing, reproductive health services, and new language on investment in research to develop female-controlled prevention methods; (c) United Nations High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS (May-June 2006): the delegation of the Coalition on Sexual and Bodily Rights and WWHR-New Ways included 14 network representatives from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tunisia, and Turkey. The delegates from Lebanon, Indonesia, and Malaysia were also on Government delegations. On 28 and 29 May, network meetings and international civil society preparation meetings were held to strategize for the special session of the General Assembly, and country missions were conducted. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, a member of the delegation from WWHR-New Ways spoke at the press briefing held with the United Nations Correspondents' Association. Two members of our delegation, from Egypt and Turkey, delivered speeches at the high-level round tables during the meeting, calling on Governments, in particular from the region, to take progressive stands on the Declaration vis-à-vis issues such as the rights of women and girls, sexuality, vulnerable groups and targets. In addition to advocacy and lobbying efforts during negotiations at the meeting, the delegation organized two panels as side events. The panels were entitled "Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in South/South-East Asia" and "Sex Education in Muslim Majority Countries and the Fight against HIV/AIDS". At the negotiations, the delegation decided to issue a statement on behalf of the Coalition, calling on Governments to change their positions and take necessary measures against the epidemic; (d) the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (February-March 2007): the Coalition and participation by the delegation of Turkey. The Commission on the Status of Women considered the topic "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child" as its priority theme. WWHR-New Ways participated in the session with three representatives. One WWHR member was appointed to the delegation of Turkey as an official delegate, due to a national campaign led by WWHR for the participation of women's NGOs in official delegations of Turkey to the United Nations since 2005. This was a key factor in making Turkey one of the most progressive and active delegations during the negotiations. With two other members participating as NGO representatives, WWHR-New Ways co-coordinated the regional NGO delegation of the Coalition, including five other members of the network from Egypt, Tunisia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey. The Coalition's experience over the last few years enabled the delegation to actively partake in and lead international NGO efforts, work in

depth on resolutions, and increase the visibility of advocacy efforts from our regions. The Coalition also issued an NGO statement during the session, which was disseminated extensively to Government delegations, NGOs and United Nations officials. The session concluded with a successful outcome document. The document included strong references to girls' human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, girls' empowerment, universal access to education, including sexual education, and the allocation of resources by member States to promote girls' human rights.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Women and Due Diligence Expert Group Meeting (Geneva, September 2005): the founding President of WWHR-New Ways participated in this high-level expert round table held by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women; participation at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Expert Group Meeting on Regional Strategies for implementing the recommendations from the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (Bangkok, April 2006): at this international expert group meeting, WWHR-New Ways made a presentation on the success of human rights-based advocacy in Turkey in bringing about legal reforms which abolished provisions permitting violence against women on the basis of traditional concepts, and contributed to the preparation of concluding recommendations; Expert Group Meeting on Good Practices in Legislation on Violence against Women (Vienna, May 2008): at this meeting WWHR-New Ways participated to share best practices in legislation on violence against women and challenges of implementation and to present a paper on the case of Turkey.